

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 191145Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3836

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC HONOLULU HI

CDR USSAG NKP THAILAND

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT: MARCH 12-19, 1975

SUMMARY -- PART I

A. THE NVA OFFENSIVE CONTINUED IN FULL FORCE THIS WEEK, WITH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS COUNTRY-WIDE THE HIGHEST SINCE THE JANUARY 1973 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. UNDERSCORING THE INTENSITY AND SCOPE OF THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS WAS THE GVN DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM KONTUM AND PLEIKU PROVINCES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THE DECISION WAS OBVIOUSLY A HARD ONE FOR THE GVN, BUT IT WAS FELT NECESSARY IN ORDER NOT TO BE SPREAD SO THIN IN THE FACE OF THE WIDE-RANGING NVA PRESSURE. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE DECISION WAS THE QUESTION OF RESUPPLY. WITH THE PRINCIPAL LOC'S BETWEEN THE COAST AND THE HIGHLANDS CUT, RESUPPLY COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN EFFECTED BY AIR, AND THAT WOULD HAVE LED TO EVEN FURTHER INCURSIONS ON THE ALREADY LIMITED VNAF FLYING TIME. THE COMMUNISTS IN MR-1 CONTINUED TO APPLY CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ALONG THE WESTERN CONTACT LINE NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, PARTICULARLY IN THE HUE AREA. SOUTH THE PASS QL-1 HAS BEEN CUT FROM QUANG NAI CITY TO THE QUANG TIN PROVINCE BORDER. THE NVA HAVE MOUNTED STIFF ATTACKS IN BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTIONS OF MR-3. THE FOCUS IS LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY IN THE EAST, WITH THE TAY NINH AREA IN THE WEST CONTINUING UNDER HEAVY SHELLING AT THE SAME TIME. THE DELTA EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACTIVITY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, EVEN THOUGH MOST INCIDENTS DID NOT INVOLVE LARGE UNIT CONTACTS. ADDITIONALLY, INITIAL BATTLEFIELD REPORTS INDICATE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES TO BE THE HIGHEST SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

B. THE HEAVIEST NVA ATTACKS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS CAME IN THE MO TAU/NUI BONG AREA IN THUA THIEN. ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI WAS RELATIVELY MINOR. IN QUANG TIN THE COMMUNISTS APPLIED PRESSURE IN THANG BINH DISTRICT, INCLUDING OVERCOMING SEVERAL TERRITORIAL UNITS EAST OF QL-1.

C. FIGHTING WAS LIGHT IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU OF MR-2 AS A RESULT OF THE GVN DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THESE PROVINCES. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL SHARP CONTACTS IN EASTERN PLEIKU AS THE GVN TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CLEAR QL-19. II CORPS HEADQUARTERS WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PLEIKU TO NHA TRANG ON MARCH 16, AND GVN FORCES WITH A GOOD PORTION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION HAVE BEEN IN THE

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PROCESS OF MOVING THROUGH PHU BON TO PHU YEN SINCE THEN. IN DARLAC THE FIERCE FIGHTING CONTINUED, WITH GVN FORCES UNABLE TO MAKE ANY REAL HEADWAY. SEVERAL ARVN UNITS HAVE BEEN REDEPLOYED TO THE KHANH HOA BORDER AREA. THE GVN HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL INDICATIONS THE THE NVA/VC MAY NOW INTEND TO PRESS ITS ATTACKS INTO KHANG HOA.

D. HEAVY, INTENSE FIGHTING WAS FACED IN LARGE PARTS OF MR-3 THIS

WEEK. EARLY IN THE PERIOD THE NVA PRESSURE WAS ON THE WESTERN AREA, WHERE TRI TAM DISTRICT TOWN FELL AND THE WESTERN PART OF TAY NINH WAS ALSO LOST. LATER IN THE PERIOD THE COMMUNISTS ALSO ATTACKED IN THE EASTERN AREA, WHERE LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY REMAIN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. ARVN FORCES THERE HAVE BEEN PERFORMING WELL, HOWEVER, PUTTING UP STIFF RESISTANCE. BIEN HOA AIRBASE HAS COME UNDER ROCKET ATTACK FOR 8 CONSECUTIVE DAYS. COMMUNIST SAPPER AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES CONTINUE IN THE SAIGON ENVIRONS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E. THE DELTA HAD FAR AND AWAY THE MOST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS THIS WEEK, EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE FEW MAJOR UNIT BATTLES. IN THE NORTH, DINH TUONG AND KIEN PHONG WERE THE TWO MOST ACTIVE PROVINCES. COMMUNIST ABDUCTIONS WERE HIGH IN THE FORMER, AND THE LATTER SAW A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF GROUND ATTACKS. THE FOCUS OF ACTIVITY IN THE CENTRAL DELTA WAS IN VINH LONG, KIEN HOA AND KIEN GIANG PROVINCES. LARGE NUMBERS OF NVA/VC FORCES MOVED INTO PHONG DINH PROVINCE TOWARDS CAN THO AND SEVERAL NEARBY BASES. TO COUNTER THIS THREAT THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION WAS MOVED TO NEW POSITIONS BETWEEN COMMUNIST FORCES AND CAN THO, AND IS BEGINNING TO PUSH THE NVA/VC SOUTHWARD. ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH MAINLY TOOK THE FORM OF ABF'S.

PART II -- ICCS

A. AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT FLURRY OF PULLBACKS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SITES HAVE BEEN LEFT UNMANNED: REGION I - PHU BAI, QUANG TRI; REGION III - PLEIKU, KONTUM, HAU BON, BAN ME THUOT; REGION IV - BAO LOC; REGION V - AN LOC, XUAN LOC; REGION VI - GIONG TROM, HONG NGU. QUANG TRI, KONTUM, PLEIKU, HAU BON, BAN ME THUOT, AN LOC AND XUAN LOC HAVE BEEN CLOSED OUT BY PA&E.

B. A NEW 54-MAN MILITARY CONTINGENT TO THE POLISH DELEGATION ARRIVED IN SAIGON MARCH 18 UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJ. GEN. TADEUZ BELCZEWSKI. ANOTHER GROUP WILL ARRIVE FROM WARSAW IN APRIL WITH ROTATION SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 10.

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS THIRTY-NINTH WEEK.

PART IV. COMMUNIST COMMENTS

A. IN DESCRIBING THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN RECENT DAYS, THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO DENY THAT AN "OFFENSIVE" IS TAKING PLACE, IN DEFERENCE TO THEIR CLAIMS TO "SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENT" THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THEY MAINTAIN INSTEAD, AS IN A MARCH 11 "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, THAT "THE PEOPLE..

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TOGETHER WITH THE PLAF, HAVE RISEN UP IN A STRUGGLE," AND THAT
"SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS" TO THE CONTRARY ARE INTENDED TO "CONCEAL"
GVN "ESCALATIONS" AND JUSTIFY "ASKING FOR MORE MILITARY AID."
MEDIA REPORTS OF COMMUNIST "COUNTERATTACKS" ARE CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED
WITH LISTS OF GVN "CRIMES" AND "SABOTAGE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

B. THE GVN'S DECISION TO INCREASE THE DRAFT IN THE FACE OF
THE MILITARY SITUATION WAS MET WITH COMMUNIST CALLS FOR URBAN
UPRISINGS. A LIBERATION RADIO BROADCAST OF MARCH 14, FOR EXAMPLE
CLAIMED THAT "FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR TAKING FIERCE ACTION TO
COMPLETELY FOIL (THE GVN'S) PRESSGANGING SCHEME" EXIST IN SAIGON
AND URGED: "LET YOUTHS IN VARIOUS CITY WARDS USE WEAPONS OF THEIR
OWN DESIGN OR THOSE SEIZED FROM THE ENEMY TO CARRY OUT
SELF-DEFENSE."

C. LIBERATION RADIO ON MARCH 18, CITING PRESS REPORTS OF THE
BOMBING OF A BUSLOAD OF AMERICANS IN SAIGON THAT MORNING, COMMENTED
THAT "THIS PROVES THE HIGH INDIGNATION OF OUR COMPATRIOTS IN
SAIGON AGAINST THE AMERICANS, WHO ARE DELIBERATELY AND STUBBORNLY...
PROLONGING THE WAR (AND) SABOTAGING THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

D. CONTINUING ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST US AID TO
CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, HANOI FOCUSED ON GEN. WESTMORELAND'S
MARCH 13 STATEMENT URGING RENEWED BOMBING AND MINING OF THE
NORTH. NHAN DAN ON MARCH 15, IN AN EDITORIAL TYPICAL OF
SEVERAL COMMENTARIES, CALLED HIS REMARKS "IMPUDENT AND ARROGANT
WORDS" WHICH "CAN FRIGHTEN NOBODY."

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN TPO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC HONOLULU HI
CDR USSAG NKP THAILAND
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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PART V - MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 389 NVA/VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE WEEK, UP SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 288. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS NVA/VC HAVE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON ARVN RF AND MARINE POSITIONS ALONG THE WESTERN CONTACT LINE, ESPECIALLY SOUTHEAST OF HUE CITY IN THE MO TAU-NUI BONG AREA OF NAM HOA (D). SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, NVA/VC ABFDGS AND GROUND ATTACKS INCREASED IN SOUTHERN QUANG NAM (P); AROUND TAM KY CITY IN QUANG TIN (P); AND IN NORTHERN QUANG NGAI (P) ALONG HWY. 1. TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED MARCH 17 ON HWY 1 IN QUANG NGAI (P), DUE TO INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY. THE

HIGHWAY REMAINS BLOCKED AS OF 1700 HOURS MARCH 18.

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 183 KIA, 909 WIA, 154 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 954 KIA, 66 CAPTURED, 5 RETURNEES. A TOTAL OF 221 COMBAT AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN. TWO A-37 AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED LOST DUE TO ENEMY ACTION.

THE 369TH MARINE BRIGADE WAS REDEPLOYED TO QUANG NAM (P) TO REPLACE THE 3RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE WHICH IS BEING REDEPLOYED TO MR-3.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI (P), MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS LIMITED TO SCATTERED ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS WITH RF UNITS AND GVN MARINES. IN THUA THIEN (P), NVA/VC ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF HUE CITY. THE HEAVIEST ATTACKS WERE SOUTH OF BONG MOUNTAIN. ON MARCH 16, THE 94TH RANGER BN REOCCUPIED HILL 224, IN THE NUI BONG AREA, WHICH HAD BEEN LOST BY THE GVN IN FIGHTING A WEEK EARLIER. SCATTERED CONTACTS WITH LOCAL FORCE UNITS IN THE LOWLANDS CONTINUED. AIRBORNE UNITS IN THE HAI VAN PASS AREA, PHU LOC (D), SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED NVA/VC PROBING ACTIONS AND MORTAR ATTACKS.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P), ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCES RF, PF, AND COMBAT PSDF, COUNTERED NVA/VC ATTACKS IN DIEN BAN, DUY XUYEN, QUE SON, AND DUC DUC DISTRICTS, SOUTH OF DANANG. LIGHT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED SOUTHWEST OF DANANG IN EASTERN THUONG DUC (D).

IN QUANG TIN (P), NVA/VC ELEMENTS INITIATED A NEW FRONT IN
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THANG BINH (D), OVERRUNNING SEVERAL PF PLATOON SIZE POSITIONS, INCLUDING SOME EAST OF HIGHWAY #1. WEST AND SOUTH OF TAM KY (D) TOWN, NVA/VC ELEMENTS CONTINUED ATTACKS AND ABF'S ON GVN DEFENDERS. LIGHT FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN NORTHERN LY TIN (D).

IN QUANG NGAI (P), FIGHTING WAS MOST INTENSE IN BINH SON (D) WHERE COMBAT ACTIVITY ON MARCH 17 AND 18 FORCED CLOSURE OF HWY 1 ALONG ENTIRE STRETCH FROM QUANG NGAI CITY NORTH TO CHU LAI ON THE QUANG NGAI-QUANG TIN (P) BORDER. AT THE CLOSE OF REPORTING PERIOD, ONE RF COMPANY AND ONE PF PLATOON WERE OVERRUN; RADIO CONTACT HAD BEEN LOST WITH THREE PF PLATOONS AND TWO ARVN COMPANIES IN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS.

4. ICCS

IN ICCS REGION 1, IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS MARCH 14 CONDUCTED OBSERVATIONS AT PHU BAI GAS DEPOT, SITE OF B-40 ROCKET ATTACK ON PREVIOUS DAY. IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS ARE REPORTED READY TO VISIT NVA/VC POW'S IN REGION 1, BUT FIRM DETAILS ARE LACKING. ACCORDING TO TPJMC CHIEF, PA&E HAS BEGUN EVACUATING QUANG TRI TEAM SITE 18 MARCH DESPITE INITIAL OBJECTIONS OF POLISH ICCS REPRESENTATIVE WHO CLAIMED HE WANTED TO SEND HIS MAN UP THERE IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT LATER AGREED TO CLOSURE OF QUANG

TRI.

IN ICCS REGION 2, THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS CONDUCTED 2 OBSERVATIONS: ON MARCH 10, A CULVERT AT XUAN DONG (H), KY-HUONG (V), TAM KY (D), QUANG TIN (P) DESTROYED SAME DAY BY NVA/VC; ON MARCH 12, A CP AT THANH QUYT BRIDGE, QUANG NAM (P) WHERE NVA/VC ATTACKS SAME MORNING RESULTED IN 4 GVN KIA'S.

THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION CARRIED OUT TWO FURTHER OBSERVATIONS: ON 13 MARCH, THE ICCS OFFICE AT TAM KY (D) QUANG TIN (P) STRUCK BY ONE NVA/VC 122 MM ROCKET ROUND ON MARCH 10; AND ALSO MARCH 13, THE PHU HIEP SUB-SUBSECTOR OF THACH KHE (H), QUE SON (D), QUANG NAM (P), SCENE OF A MARCH 12 NVA/VC ATTACK RESULTING IN 2 PF KIA'S AND 5 CIVILIANS KILLED.

FURTHER IN ICCS REGION 2, ACCORDING TO DEPUTY HEAD OF GVN DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC, AS OF MARCH 18 ICCS TEAMS REMAIN DEPLOYED TO ALL 3 TEAM SITES (HOI AN, TAM KY AND CHU LAI). THE INDONESIANS, IRANIANS AND HUNGARIANS WERE RETURNING THEIR TEAM MEMBERS TO THE SITES MARCH 18 FOLLOWING A WEEKEND SPENT IN DANANG. THE ONLY POLE DEPLOYED TO TEAM SITES IS A CAPTAIN AT THE TAM KY SITE. THE HEAD OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE ICCS REGION 2 TOLD APO ON MARCH 15 THAT POLISH DEPLETION IS A

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CONSEQUENCE OF NORMAL ROTATION AND REITERATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS TO GVN TPMJC OFFICIALS THAT HE EXPECTS TO HAVE HIS DELEGATION REPLENISHED BY THE END OF MARCH.

ALSO ON MARCH 15, HEAD OF HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO ICCS REGION 2 ASSURED APO THAT HIS MEMBERS WOULD RETURN TO THE TEAM SITES ON THE 18TH AS IS THEIR USUAL CUSTOM FOLLTWIN WEEKENDS IN DANANG. THE HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TOLD APO THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY HIS HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON THAT TEMPORARILY THE INDONESIANS WOULD NOT DEPLOY TO TEAM SITES NOT MANNED BY ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS. ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT QUANG TRI AND PHU BAI AT WHICH ONLY INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS HAD BEEN PRESENT WOULD NOT BE OCCUPIED BY INDONESIANS FOR THE TIME BEING, HE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE HEAD OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION ASSURED APO THAT HIS DELEGATION HAS NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING AT THIS TIME FROM ANY OF THE REGIONS FROM ICCS REGION 2. HE SAID THAT HIS DELEGATION INTENDS TO REMAIN AT TEAM SITES AS LONG AS SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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USIA WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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PART VI - MR II

1. SUMMARY: THE PRECIPITANT ABANDONMENT OF KONTUM AND PLEIKU
BY THE GVN WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICO-MILITARY EVENT

OF THE WEEK. AS OF MARCH 18, MASSIVE CONVOYS AND COLUMNS OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS FROM KONTUM AND PLEIKU HAD ENTERED PHU BON, AND SOME HAD GONE AS FAR AS PHU YEN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TUY PHUOC DISTRICT AND QUI NHON CITY, ALL OF BINH DINH SAW HEAVY FIGHTING. IN DARLAC, THE 23RD ARVN DIV WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE COMMUNIST PRESSURE AND HAD BEEN PUSHED FROM CENTRAL PHUOC AN DISTRICT TO THE DARLAC/KHANH HOA BORDER. THE GVN'S CLEARING OPERATION IN NORTHERN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT, KHANH HOA, WAS STALLED AT WEEK'S END BUT REINFORCEMENTS WERE ARRIVING. THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED AN UNSUCCESSFUL GROUND ATTACK AGAINST KIEN DUC DISTRICT TOWN IN QUANG DUC ON MJMRCH 12, BUT THUS FAR THEY HAVE NOT PRESSURED GIA NGHIA.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
MARCH 10 -16, 1975

I. COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

TOTAL INCIDENTS

LAST WEEK: 219

THIS WEEK: 159

BINH DINH WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 65 INCIDENTS.

II. GVN INITIATED INCIDENTS:

LAST WEEK: 123 GROUND CONTACTS

THIS WEEK: 61 GROUND CONTACTS

III. COMMUNIST PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

PERSONNEL	WEAPONS
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KIA	CIA	RETURNEE	CS	INDV	TOTAL	WPNS
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LAST WEEK:	649	12	04	15	91	106
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THIS WEEK:	645	09	03	18	89	107
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IV. GVN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

KIA	CIA	MIA	CS	INDV	TOTAL	WPNS
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LAST WEEK:	73	290	111	8#	06	116 122
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THIS WEEK: 53 196 127 02 116 118

V. GVN AIR OPERATIONS (SORTIES)

TAC AIR

LAST WEEK: 230

THIS WEEK: 526

2. KONTUM/PLEIKU: THE PRECIPITANT ABANDONMENT OF KONTUM AND
PLEIKU AT WEEK'S END BY THE GVN WAS CLEARLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT

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MILITARY-RELATED EVENT OF THE WEEK. IRONICALLY, HOWEVER, NEITHER PROVINCE SAW MUCH FIGHTING DURING THE WEEK. THE ONLY GROUND CLASHES OF NOTE TOOK PLACE IN EASTERN LE TRUNG DISTRICT, WHERE GVN FORCES PROVED UNABLE TO CLEAR QL-19. THE COMMUNISTS DID HIT BOTH PLEIKU CITY AND TRANH AN WITH ABF'S, BUT NOT WITH GROUND ATTACKS. NONETHELESS, THE REASONS FOR THE PULL-OUT FROM KONTUM AND PLEIKU SEEM REASONABLY CLEAR. FIRST, THE RECAPTURE OF BAN ME THUOT, THE LARGEST POPULATION CENTER AND THE SYMBOLIC "CAPITAL" OF THE HIGHLANDS, WAS THE GVN'S PRIME OBJECTIVE. AVAILABLE GVN MILITARY RESOURCES -- NOTABLY THE 23RD DIV, MOST OF WHICH WAS AIRLIFTED TO THE DARLAC THEATER -- WOULD HAVE BEEN INCAPABLE OF RETAKING BAN ME THUOT AND DEFENDING KONTUM AND PLEIKU AS WELL (ONLY FIVE RANGER GROUPS AND TWO BNS OF THE 44TH REGT PLUS TERRITORIAL FORCES REMAINED AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF KONTUM AND PLEIKU). SECONDLY, QL-19, THE PRINCIPAL LOC TO PLEIKU, HAD BEEN CUT SINCE MARCH 4, AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO RE-OPEN IT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. WITH QL-19 OUT, THE RE-SUPPLY OF PLEIKU WOULD HAVE STRETCHED SCARCE GVN AIR SUPPORT. THIRDLY, INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD INFILTRATED SUBSTANTIAL NEW UNITS INTO THE HIGHLANDS, FURTHER UPSETTING THE BALANCE OF POWER. IN ANY CASE, ON MARCH 16, II CORPS HQS WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PLEIKU TO NHA TRANG, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE REMAINING GVN FORCES, TOGETHER WITH MUCH OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, BEGAN THE TREK DOWN QL-14 AND LTB 7B TO CHEO REO AND TUY HOA.

3. DARLAC: THE 23RD ARVN DIV RETREATED FROM BAN ME THUOT UNDER CONSIDERABLE COMMUNIST PRESSURE. AS OF MARCH 17, THE GVN HAD LOST AT LEAST HALF OF PHUOC AN DISTRICT (BUON HO DISTRICT FELL EARLIER IN THE WEEK). THE 23RD DIV'S LIGHT CP WAS PULLED BACK FROM ITS LOCATION AT BQ 100053 TO CHU KUK MT AT BQ 226168 ON OR ABOUT MARCH 16. THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE 23RD, COL LE HUU DUC (THE PREVIOUS COMMANDER, GEN TROUNG, WAS WOUNDED AND EVACUATED TO NHA TRANG), MOVED FROM CHU KUK TO KHANH DUONG (BQ 585055) ON MARCH 17, INDICATING THAT THE LIGHT CP HAD BEEN MOVED EASTWARD ONCE AGAIN. HERE THE DIVISION JOINED THE TERRITORIAL FORCES

WHICH HAD BEEN BATTLING TO REOPEN QL-21. ACCORDING TO LATE NEWS THE 45TH REGT, THE ONE BN OF THE 44TH REGT WHICH IS IN DARLAC, AND THE 21ST RANGER GROUP HAD RETREATED TO THE KHANH HOA BORDER AS OF MARCH 18. REPORTEDLY ALL OF THESE UNITS HAVE TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES, AND MAY BE ONLY PARTIALLY OPERATIONAL. THE

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53REGT, THE LONE ARVN UNIT KNOWN TO BE IN THE BAN ME THUOT AREA, TOOK A HEAVY GROUND ASSAULT AGAINST ITS POSITION AT PHUNG DUC AIRFIELD ON MARCH 17. UNDER INTENSE COMMUNIST PRESSURE, THE UNIT BEGAN MOVING EAST THE SAME DAY. GVN FORCES IN DARLAC HAVE TAKEN POWS FROM BOTH THE 320TH AND THE 316TH NVA DIVS.

4. PHU BON: SINCE THE FALL OF THUAN MAN DISTRICT ON MARCH 7, MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PHU BON HAS BEEN LIMITED TO ATTACKS BY FIRE. NOTABLY, ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 17 CHEO REO RECEIVED ABOUT 15 ROCKETS, WHICH REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BUILDINGS ON TWO CITY BLOCKS IN DOWNTOWN CHEO REO. AS OF MARCH 17, HOWEVER, PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAD DECAMPED FROM CHEO REO. THE HORDE OF MILITARY FORCES AND CIVILIANS FROM PLEIKU AND KONTUM REACHED CHEO REO BY MARCH 18 (INDEED, SEVERAL CONVOYS HAD ALREADY PASSED THROUGH CHEO REO AND, ACCORDING TO LATE NEWS, HAVE ENTERED PHU YEN). THUS FAR THE CONVOYS IN PHU BON HAVE TAKEN ONLY MINIMAL HARASSMENT FROM COMMUNISTS.

5. KHANH HOA: NORTHERN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT REMAINED ONE OF THE MAIN THEATERS OF BATTLE IN REGION 2. AT MID-WEEK, AFTER A DELAY OF SEVERAL DAYS, KHANH HOA PROVINCE CHIEF, COL PHAM, MOUNTED A MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION TO RE-OPEN QL-21 INHQ KHANH DUONG. THE OPERATION, HOWEVER, MET WITH ONLY PARTIAL SUCCESS, AND GVN UNITS IN KHANH DUONG ARE NOW APPARENTLY IN A HOLDING PATTERN. COL DUC, NEW COMMANDER OF THE 23RD DIV, HAS NOW ASSUMED OVERALL DIRECTION OF GVN OPERATIONS IN KHANH DUONG AS WELL AS IN DARLAC. AT WEEK'S END COL DUC'S FORCES IN KHANH DUONG HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN REINFORCED BY TWO BNS OF THE 40TH REGT FROM BINH DINH; THE 3RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE FROM DANANG IS ALSO SLATED TO ARRIVE SHORTLY. TWO INCIDENTS OF COMMUNIST MORTARING IN EASTERN DIEN KHANH DISTRICT TOGETHER WITH REPORTS OF COMMUNIST SAPPER UNITS ON THE MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF NHA TRANG APPARENTLY PROMPTED THE SHIFT OF THE 277TH RF BN FROM TUYEN DUC TO NHA TRANG.

6. OTHER: ON MARCH 12 THE COMMUNIST MORTARED AND GROUND ATTACKED KIEN DUC SUBSECTOR HQS IN QUANG DUC. THE 81ST AND 82ND RANGER BNS REPULSED THE ATTACKS TAKING 7 WIA AS AGAINST 29 COMMUNIST KIA. ON MARCH 13, THE 81ST RANGERS AGAIN CLASHED WITH THE COMMUNISTS, KILLING 17. IN TUYEN DUC, A SMALL COMMUNIST FORCE IS REPORTEDLY SET TO ATTACK DAM RONG VILLAGE ON THE TUYEN

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DUC/DARLAC BORDER. A TROOP OF BOY SCOUTS ENTERING DALAT AT DUSK ON THE 17TH SET OFF REPORTS THAT THE NVA WAS TAKING OVER THE CITY AND A PANIC ENSUED THE LIKE OF ORSEN WELL'S "MEN FROM MARS" INCIDENT IN THE 1930'S. BINH THUAN SAW AN INCREASE IN SMALL-SCALE MILITARY INCIDENTS, BUT NINH THUAN AND LAM DONG REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.

8. ICCS: ALL ICCS DELEGATES HAVE LEFT KONTUM, PLEIKU, AND CHEO REO. ALL HUNGARIANS AND POLES HAVE LEFT THE BINH DINH ICCS SITES; TWO IRANIANS AND ONE INDONESIAN REMAIN IN QUI NHON, AND TWO IRANIANS AND 2 INDONESIANS ARE AT PHU CAT. ONE POEJONE HUNGARIAN HAVE LEFT THE DALAT TEAM UITE, BUT ONE HUNGARIAN, ONE IRANIAN AND 2 INDONESIANS REMAINS. ALL OF THE POLES HAVE LEFT THE KHANH HOA TEAM SITES, BUT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OTHER 3 DELEGATIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE. BOTH THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE LEFT THE PHAN RANG SITE, BUT THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS REMAIN. ALL 4 DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE PHAN THIET SITE.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC HONOLULU HI
CDR USSAG NKP THAILAND
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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PART VII - MR III

1. SUMMARY. FACING THE HEAVIEST AND MOST SERIOUS NVA/VC ATTACKS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, MR3 LOST TRI TAM DISTRICT TOWN AND ALL OF TAY NINH AREA WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER BEFORE MOMENTARILY STABILIZING THE SITUATION IN THE WEST, THEN CAME UNDER THE EXPECTED OFFENSIVE IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES OF LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. BIEN HOA AIR BASE TOOK ROCKET ATTACKS EACH DAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. IN THE COMING PERIOD, HEAVY FIGHTING IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE EAST, AND IN THE WEST MR3 HQ FORESEES A LIKELIHOOD OF ATTEMPTS TO CUT ROUTE 1 IN THE TRANG BANG/CU CHI AREA. END SUMMARY

2. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO RISE THIS WEEK WITH 386 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 273 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. MORE THAN HALF OCCURRED IN TAY NINH (183). HAU NGHIA HAD 42 AND LONG KHANH 36. MR3 HQS REPORTED 74 GROUND CONTACTS, 199 ATTACKS BY FIRE AND 27 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S.

3. NVA/VC ABF'S TOTALED 2,710 ROUNDS, INCLUDING 1,940 MORTAR, 492 ROCKET AND 278 ARTILLERY. ARVN EXPENDED 38,042 ARTILLERY ROUNDS (16,861 LAST WEEK), WHICH IS 115 PERCENT OVER MR3'S NORMAL ALLOCATION. VNAF 3RD AIR DIV FLEW 254 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 320 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP MISSIONS. ONE A-37 AND TWO LTL-19

OBSERVATION PLANES WERE LOST IN TAY NINH.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 128 KIA, 476 WIA AND 41 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 474 KIA, 11 CIA AND 1 RALLIER. APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE GVN CASUALTIES WERE TERRITORIAL FORCES. VNAF REPORTED AN ADDITIONAL 257 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR (KBA).

5. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ROSE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. ACTIVITY CONCENTRATED IN SOUTHEASTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE AND WESTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE AS NVA/VC FORCES SOUGHT TO ISOLATE TAY NINH CITY. ON MARCH 12, AFTER HOLDING FOR TWO DAYS, TRI TAM DISTRICT IN WESTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE FELL. TANK-LED INFANTRY ASSAULTS FIGURED HEAVILY IN NVA/VC TACTICS. THE NVA/VC HAD 8 TANKS DESTROYED.
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TROYED. NVA/VC FORCES WITH ARMOR ALSO ATTACKED TERRITORIAL FORCES ON THE WEST BANK OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES AND OVERRUNNING SEVERAL GVN OUTPOSTS. AT LEAST 1,200 HECTARES OF RICE-PRODUCING LAND THERE HAVE BEEN LOST TO THE NVA/VC. ROUTE QL-22 TO TAY NINH CITY WAS INTERDICTED FOR 5 DAYS BUT HAS BEEN OPEN SINCE MARCH 14. NVA/VC GUNNERS ALSO HEAVILY SHELLED GO DAU HA AND KHIEM HANH THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WITH 130MM REPORTED FALLING IN KHIEM HANH. TAY NINH CITY RECEIVED 60 RDS OF MIXED ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE ON THE 11TH AND 12TH, WHICH RESULTED IN 17 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 7 WOUNDED. OUTPOSTS AROUND THE CITY HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENTLY SHELLED. NVA/VC FORCES HAVE YET TO LAUNCH A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE CITY.

6. IN EASTERN MR3, NVA/VC LAUNCHED THEIR EXPECTED OFFENSIVE IN LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY PROVINCES ON MARCH 17. COORDINATED ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED AT DINH QUAN, LA NGA BRIDGE, AND GIA RAY IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE AND HOAI DUC IN BINH TUY PROVINCE. AT DINH QUAN, NVA/VC FORCES IN AN ARMOR-SUPPORTED ATTACK INTERDICTED QL-20 AND ATTEMPTED TO OVERRUN THE TOWN. STUBBORN ARVN RESISTANCE HAD PREVENTED THEM FROM DOING SO UP TO NOON MARCH 18; HOWEVER, MOST OF THE CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. GVN FORCES HAVE ALSO REPULSED ENEMY ATTACKS AT LA NGA BRIDGE ON ROUTE 20 AND AT HOAI DUC, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER IS EXPERIENCING HEAVY ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRE. ALONG QL-1 IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE THE ROAD HAS BEEN INTERDICTED AS NVA/VC FORCES BLEW A CULVERT AND A BRIDGE SOUTH OF CHUA CHAN MOUNTAIN. ON MARCH 18 NVA/VC FORCES LAUNCHED A GROUND ASSAULT AGAINST GIA RAY AT THE NORTHEASTERN FOOT OF CHUA CHAN MOUNTAIN. LATEST REPORTS STATE THAT GIA RAY VILLAGE WAS OVERRUN THE MORNING OF MARCH 18, BUT A NEARBY GVN FIRE BASE WAS HOLDING. ON MARCH 17, XUAN LOC, PROVINCE CAPITAL OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE, RECEIVED 4 RDS OF 122MM ROCKET AND 4 UNIDENTIFIED RDS WHICH KILLED 1 CIVILIAN AND WOUNDED 2 OTHERS.

7. ALONG QL-13 IN THE BINH LONG-BINH DUONG BORDER AREA, ARVN AND RANGER FORCES SUSPENDED THEIR EFFORT TO CLEAR THE ROAD BETWEEN CHON THANH AND LAI KHE. ON MARCH 14, RANGER FORCES 7 KMS SOUTH OF CHON THANH RECEIVED 86 MIXED ROUNDS OF ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRE, AND WERE ATTACKED BY NVA/VC FORCES IN A COMBINED GROUND AND ABF ASSAULT. NEGATIVE GVN LOSSES WERE REPORTED WITH 19 NVA/VC KILLED AND 6 CAPTURED. INITIAL INTERROGATION OF THE POW'S REVEALED THAT A NEW REGIMENT FROM NORTH VIETNAM, THE 273RD OF
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THE 341ST DIV, ARRIVED IN BINH LONG PROVINCE IN FEBRUARY.

8. ON MARCH 18, IN THE GIA DINH METROPOLITAN AREA BORDERING SAIGON, A TEENAGE BOY TERRORIST ATTEMPTED TO THROW AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE ONTO A BUS TRANSPORTING AMERICAN CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO BIEN HOA AIR BASE. ELEVEN AMERICANS WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED WHEN THE CHARGE EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE BUS. ON MARCH 17, ALSO IN THE GIA DINH METROPOLITAN AREA BORDERING SAIGON, SAPPERS STRUCK AT A POL STORAGE BASE NEAR GIA DINH SECTOR HEADQUARTERS. TEN GVN DEFENDERS WERE WOUNDED AND FOUR POL STORAGE TANKS WERE DAMAGED IN THE ATTACK. ONE SAPPER WAS KILLED AND A QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES WERE CAPTURED.

9. BIEN HOA AIR BASE HAS BEEN ROCKETED FOR 8 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BEGINNING MARCH 11 WITH A TOTAL OF 68 RDS HITTING THE AIR BASE AND ADJACENT CIVILIAN AREAS. FIVE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 25 WERE WOUNDED SINCE THE ROCKETING RESUMED. SEVEN AIRMEN WERE ALSO WOUNDED. ONE WAREHOUSE CONTAINING TIRES AND UNIFORMS WAS DESTROYED AND TWO BUILDINGS ON THE AIR BASE WERE DAMAGED IN THE ATTACKS.

10. ICCS ACTIVITY. ON MARCH 13 AND 14, THE INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATION IN REGION V WITHDREW ITS REPRESENTATIVES FROM ICCS SITES AT CU CHI, HAU NGHIA; LAM SON, BINH DUONG; AND XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH. THIS ACTION REFLECTS THE CONCERN OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION OVER THE MISSING INDONESIAN DELEGATE IN BAN ME THUOT. ON MARCH 11, INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATES MADE OBSERVATIONS AT ROCKET IMPACT SITES AT BEN LUC, LONG AN PROVINCE, AND AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE AND THE SURROUNDING CIVILIAN AREAS. ON MARCH 11, A MEMBER OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION WITNESSED THE DESTRUCTION OF AMMUNITION AT LONG BINH BASE.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC HONOLULU HI

CDR USSAG NKP THAILAND

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

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PART VIII - MR IV

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE WEEK, SURPASSING THE DECEMBER HIGHPOINT TO REACH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACTIVITY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. ACTIVITY WAS CENTERED IN DINH TUONG IN THE NORTHERN DELTA, VINH LONG IN THE CENTRAL DELTA. CORPS REPORTS 1,137 NVA/VC INITIATED INCIDENTS (299 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 183 GROUND ATTACKS (24), 14 INFILTRATIONS (21), 679 ATTACKS BY FIRE (144), 196 HARASSMENTS (76), 21 SABOTAGE (13), 41 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (20), AND 2 BETRAYALS (1). LOSSES FOR BOTH SIDES ALSO REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVELS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, WITH GVN REPORTING 499 KIA (118), 1,805 WIA (546), CEASEFIRE, WITH GVN REPORTING 499 KIA (118), 1,805 WIA (546), 293 MIA (30). 23 CREW SERVED (5) AND 698 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (96) WERE LOST, AS WELL AS 19 PRC-25 RADIOS. CORPS CLAIMS 1,706 NVA/VC KILLED (593), 39 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (69), 68 CREW SERVED (9) AND 370 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (222) SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERNDELTA: ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN DELTA CENTERED IN DINH TUONG AND KIEN PHONG. ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 7TH DIV ENGAGED IN SEVERAL ACTIONS WITH UNIDENTIFIED NVA/VC UNITS IN HAU MY AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS, DINH TUONG. IN THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS 7TH DIV REPORTED 137 NVA/VC KIA, WITH 29 ARVN WIA AND 74 MIA. IN A SEPERATE INCIDENT ANOTHER ELEMENT OF 7TH DIV WAS AMBUSHED, SUFFERING 16 KIA, 61 WIA, 10 MIA. THREE OB'S WERE LOST, IN CHO GAO, CAI BE, AND HAU MY DISTRICTS. THE VC ABDUCTED 13 PSDF IN BEN TRANH (D), WHILE ANOTHER GROUP DISGUISED AS ARVN STOPPED A BUS ON ROUTE 30 IN EARLY AFTERNOON AND ABDUCTED 15 CIVILIANS. ACTIVITY IN KIEN PHONG WAS MARKED BY A SHARP INCREASE IN GROUND ATTACKS. NGA SAU OB IN MY AN (D) WAS OVERRUN BY ELEMENTS OF THREE NVA REGIMENTS AND LATER RETAKEN, BOTH SIDES SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES. FOUR OTHER OB'S WERE OVERRUN, THREE LATER RETAKEN IN MY AND HONG NGU DISTRICTS. KIEN TUONG WAS QUIET WITH MOSTLY SMALL UNIT ACTIONS WITH LITTLE RESULT. HOWEVER THE GVN LOST THEIR LAST OB IN TUYEN NHON (D) ON THE VAM CO TAY RIVER AFTER BOTH SIDES SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. IN TUYEN BINH (D) A NAVY CONVOY WAS ABLE TO RESUPPLY THE DISTRICT TOWN.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: VINH LONG, KIEN HOA, AND KIEN GIANG WERE THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE NEW HIGHPOINT.

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IN VINH LONG NVA/VC OVERRAN 2 VILLAGES (ONE IN TRA ON, ONE IN CHO LACH), A WATCHTOWER, AND 2 OB'S AS THEY PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON TRA ON AND CHO LACH DISTRICTS. CHO LACH (D) EXPERIENCED ITS HEAVIEST FIGHTING SINCE TET 68. THE DOC THAP I REGIMENT WAS REPORTED TO BE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ACTIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, ROADBLOCKS WERE ERECTED AT NIGHT ON HIGHWAY 4 IN BINH MINH (D); TRAFFIC WAS RESTORED EARLY THE NEXT MORING. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES WERE HIGH IN RF AND 7TH DIVISON CONTACTS IN TRA ON AND CHO LACH DISTRICTS. D-1 AND D-3 REGIMENTS WERE BOTH

REPORTED TO NOW BE OPERATING IN TRA ON (D). THERE WERE NUMEROUS
ABF'S AS THE VC SHELLED TRA ON DISTRICT TOWN, KILLING 1 AND
WOUNDING 10 CIVILIANS. 18 OTHERS CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 20
WOUNDED WHEN A BUS HIT A MINE IN CTRA ON (D).
IN KIEN HOA THE FOCAL POINT OF INCREASED ACTIVITY WAS
BA TRI DISTRICT, THE MOST SECURE IN THE PROVINCE. SIX VILLAGES
CAME UNDER HEAVY GROUND ATTACKS. IN AN INCIDENT STILL UNREPORTED
BY SECTOR, THE RF RELIEF FORCE FOR ONE OF THE VILLAGES WAS
AMBUSHED, SUFFERING 24 KIA, 50 WIA, AND 16 MIA. MOST OF THE
REMAINING ACTIVITY TOOK THE FORM OF HARASSMENTS DIRECTED AGAINST
ISOLATED OUTPOSTS AND CIVIL OFFICES. IN ONE INCIDENT, THE VC
FIRED 3 ROUND B.40 ROCKET INTO PROVINCE NPFF AND RDC COMPOUNDS IN

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC HONOLULU HI

CDR USSAG NKP THAILAND

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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BEN TRE, WOUNDING 3, AND DURING THEIR WITHDRAWAL CAPTURING 5 PSDF MEMBERS AND 5 CARBINES. PROVINCE RF UNITS DID SCORE TWO SUCCESSES AGAINST NVA/VC UNITS INFLECTING 48 KIA, WHILE SUFFERING 6 KIA, 24 WIA, AND 17 MIA IN TWO UNRELATED ACTIONS. MOST OF THE ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG AND THE REMAINDER OF THE CENTRAL DELTA TOOK THE FORM OF ABF'S ON DISTRICT/VILLAGE TOWNS AND ISOLATED MILITARY POSITIONS. HIEU LE DISTRICT TOWN IN KIEN GIANG RECEIVED 64X82MM, AND TOOK 2 MIA. ONE RF BATTALION CP TOOK OVER 250X82MM AT ITS 3 POSITIONS, TAKING 7 WIA IN EXCHANGE FOR 5 VC/NVA KILLED DURING A GROUND ATTACK UNDER THE COVERING SHELLING. 13 CIVILIANS WERE INJURED IN TWO MINING INCIDENTS. TWO BRIDGES WERE BLOWN ON ROUTE 13 IN SA DEC, ISOLATING TAN DUONG (V). 2 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 17 WOUNDED, INCLUDING 10 STUDENTS, WHEN VINH THANH VILLAGE TOOK 15X82MM, MANY IN THE SCHOOLYARD. ONLY ONE SIGNIFICANT ACTION OCCURRED IN VINH BINH WHEN THE VC ATTACKED LONG HIEP (V) TRA CU (D). NVA/VC SUFFERED 70 KILLED, WHILE ONLY 9 DEFENDERS WERE KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED. PERPHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT MOVES DURING THE PAST WEEK IN MR4 TOOK PLACE INK HONG DINH (P) WHEN LARGE NVA/VC FORCES MOVED INTO THE PROVINCE TOWARDS CAN THO AND NEARBY LOGISTICS AND AIR BASES. THIS THREAT WAS COUNTERED BY A HASTY REDEPLOYMENT OF MOST OF ARVN 21ST DIVISION TO POSITIONS BETWEEN ENEMY AND CAN THO. ARVN NOW IS MOVING SOUTHWARDS TO PUSH ENEMY FORCES BACK INTO CHUONG THIEN (P) WHERE THEY NORMALLY OPERATE.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: THE SOUTHERN DELTA WAS FAIRLY ACTIVE THIS WEEK BUT MAINLY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S ON DISTRICT TOWNS AND VILLAGES, AND ISOLATED OUTPOSTS. IN CHUONG THIEN A DOUBLE BRIDGE ON ROUTE 31, CROSSING A SMALL CANAL IN THE VI THANH MARKET AREA WAS DESTROYED, EFFECTIVELY CUTTING OFF TRAFFIC INTO VI THANH. ARVN ENGINEERS ARE INSTALLING A TEMPORARY FLOATING BRIDGE. THERE WERE ALSO NUMEROUS SHELLING ON SEVERAL OB'S WHICH INFLECTED ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES. TWO OUTPOSTS IN BA XUYEN WERE OVERRUN WHILE SEVERAL VILLAGES RECEIVED REPORTED SHELLINGS AND HARASSING FIRE, RESULTING IN ONLY 1 KILLED AND 6

WOUNDED. RF UNITS IN THE NEWLY REOCCUPIED SUB-SUBSECTOR OF KHANH AN IN AN XUYEN AND AN OB WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW TO THOI BINH DISTRICT TOWN. THE 3RD BATTALION, ARVN 31 ST REGIMENT HAS RETURNED TO SUPPORT THE 2ND BATTALION 33RD REGIMENT IN OPERATIONS AROUND DAM DOI DISTRICT TOWN WHICH HAS BEEN
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 03129 08 OF 08 191656Z

UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. IN THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT CONTACT RF'S INFLECTED 17 KILLED ON UNKNOWN VC UNIT IN NAM CAN (D). ONE OB IN BAC LIEU WAS ABANDONED. PHUOC LONG (V), PHUOC LONG (D) TOOK 10 CASUALTIES IN SEVERAL SHELLINGS. SECTOR S2 REPORTEDLY HAS DISCOVERED A NEWLY ORGANIZED VC BATTALION, BAC LIEU 3. THIS UNIT WAS FIRST RUMORED TO EXIST EARLY THIS YEAR AND IS SAID TO NUMBER 90 MEN (37 NVA, THE REST FROM CA MAU).

(E) ICCS ACTIVITY: NO OBSERVATIONS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN EITHER REGION. THE INDONESIANS HAVE TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN FROM ALL TEAMSITES IN REGION VI AND VII LEAVING ONLY THE IRANIANS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE AT EVERY TEAMSITE EXCEPT THE STILL VACANT MOC HOA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON03129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0495
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750336/aaaabgfk.tel
Line Count: 1167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT: MARCH 12-19, 1975 SUMMARY -- PART I
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, MOPS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006